



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1793(116)
Timber Mountain/Johns Peak
OHV Management Plan/EIS
A7013(KM:jl)

FEB 11 2003

Dear Interested Public:

The Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning the development of the Timber Mountain/Johns Peak Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Timber Mountain/Johns Peak OHV Area is generally situated to the west of the City of Jacksonville in southwestern Oregon. OHV enthusiasts have recreated in the Timber Mountain/Johns Peak area for over 40 years, and use has increased in recent years. The Timber Mountain/Johns Peak OHV area involves approximately 13,865 acres of BLM administered lands.

In 1995, the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) established resource program objectives and land use allocations and management actions/direction for managing BLM administered lands in the Medford District. The recreation objectives of the RMP provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting the projected recreation demand for the area.

The 1995 RMP designated the Timber Mountain/Johns Peak area "specifically to provide for OHV use" and directs the agency to "Manage off-highway vehicle use on BLM-administered land to protect natural resources, provide visitor safety, and minimize conflicts among various users." *The development of this plan will not revisit whether or not to allow OHV use in this area, rather it will develop and analyze alternatives for managing designated OHV use in accordance with RMP direction.*

The Timber Mountain/Johns Peak OHV Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed to guide activities within the designated Timber Mountain/Johns Peak OHV Area. Through development of this plan:

- A system of OHV use areas would be identified for management;
- Trail design features would be established for stabilizing, reconstructing, or relocating existing trails;
- A sign plan would be developed to mark designated use areas;
- Trailheads would be identified and trailhead design features would be established.

Two informational meetings have been scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the public with information about the planning process, and to receive input from those who are interested or affected. Both meetings are designed to present the same information. To ensure that there is enough room for all participants, please contact BLM at least one week prior to the scheduled meetings if you plan to attend.

Date: March 3, 2003

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Location:

Jackson County Fairgrounds/Exposition Park
1 Peninger Road (Exit 33 – just off of I-5)
Central Point, Oregon 97502

Date: March 6, 2003

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Location:

Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center
569 Hanley Road
Central Point, Oregon 97502

These meetings are designed to provide an informal setting for information sharing; they are not designed as formal public hearings. BLM specialists will be available to discuss your ideas and concerns, and will assist you with providing your input to the process. BLM specialists will consider information gathered through this scoping process in the development of the Timber Mountain/Johns Peak OHV Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

In order for your input to be incorporated early in the planning process, written comments should be sent by March 28, 2003. Send written comments to: Richard J. Drehobl, Ashland Field Manager, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford Oregon, 97504, or email to Kristi_Mastrofini@or.blm.gov.

Pursuant to 7 CFR Part 1, Subpart B, Section 1.27, all written submissions in response to this notice, public scoping letters, and draft and final Environmental Impact Statements will be made available for public inspection including the submitter's name and address, unless the submitter specifically requests confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, submitted on official letterheads, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

For information about the planning process please contact Kristi Mastrofini at (541) 618-2384 or Don Ferguson at (541) 618-2292. Fax or E-mail can be sent to the attention of Kristi Mastrofini at (541) 618-2400, or Kristi_Mastrofini@or.blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Drehobl", written over a horizontal line.

Richard J. Drehobl
Field Manager

Ashland Resource Area